



LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Celebrating 29 Years of Advocacy & Achievement

500 West Temple Street, Hall of Administration, Room B-22, Los Angeles, CA 90012

Phone: 213/974-1558 Fax: 213/633-5102

www.lachildrenscommission.org

COMMISSIONERS

Genevra Berger

Chair

Susan F. Friedman

Vice Chair

Helen A. Kleinberg

Vice Chair

Carol O. Biondi

Patricia Curry

Ann Franzen

Dr. Sunny Kang

Daphne Ng

Steven M. Olivas, Esq.

Sandra Rudnick

Becky A. Shevlin

Adelina Sorkin, LCSW/ACSW

Martha Trevino Powell

Sylvia Drew Ivie

Executive Liaison

May 10, 2013

The Honorable John A. Pérez
Speaker of the California Assembly
Capitol Office
Post Office Box 942849, Room 219
Sacramento, CA 94249-0053

Dear Mr. Speaker:

RE: CALIFORNIA ASSEMBLY BILL 643 OF 2013 (STONE)

The Los Angeles County Commission for Children and Families was created by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors in 1984. Its mission is to enhance the well-being of children and families in Los Angeles County. We write to urge passage of California Assembly Bill 643 of 2013 (Stone) ("AB 643"), which would provide California child welfare agencies access to school records for children under their supervision.

Existing State law prohibits a school district from permitting access to pupil records by any person without written parental consent or judicial order. AB 643 would conform State law to federal law, pursuant to the Uninterrupted Scholars Act (S. 3472), which was signed into law on January 14, 2013. The federal law permits the release of such records and information without additional notice to parents when a parent is a party to a court proceeding involving child abuse and neglect or dependency matters and a court order has already been issued in the context of that proceeding.

According to the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services and the Probation Department, AB 643 would help to enhance the ability of County staff to monitor and improve the educational progress of children under the County's custody.

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors support AB 643. Their backing is consistent with existing County policy to support proposals that would provide child welfare agencies with improved access to educational records on children whom they are serving, and the Countywide Youth Self-Sufficiency Initiative which includes improved educational outcomes as one of its four goals to ensure successful transitions to adulthood.

The Honorable John A. Pérez
Speaker of the California Assembly
May 10, 2013
Page 2

AB 643 is also supported by the California Alliance of Child and Family Services, Children's Rights Project at Public Counsel, Legal Advocates for Children and Youth, and National Center for Youth Law. There is no registered opposition on file. Thank you in advance for your support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Genevra Berger".

Genevra Berger, Chair
Los Angeles County
Commission for Children and Families

GB:SDI:ma

- c: Each member, Board of Supervisors
- Each member, California State Assembly
- Chief Executive Officer
- Executive Officer of the Board
- Chief Probation Officer
- County Counsel
- Director, Department of Children and Family Services
- Board of Supervisors Children's Deputies
- California Alliance of Child and Family Services
- Children's Rights Project at Public Counsel
- Legal Advocates for Children and Youth
- National Center for Youth Law